

Levee forest (*=planted):

Quercus lyrata

*Platanus occidentalis**

Juglans nigra

The abundance of coarse woody debris (CWD) in the reference site and the total lack of CWD in the mitigation site was one very noticeable difference (besides the lack of forest in most of the mitigation site). CWD is important for biogeochemical transformations and invertebrate habitat. Restoration could have been enhanced further had CWD been placed in the restored area. However, this site will provide adequate conditions for assimilating and transforming nutrients before they reach New Light Creek. More of these types of sites should be considered for mitigation.

Phillips

County: Wake

Location: Between US401 and Lake Wheeler south of Raleigh (east side of Swift Creek).

Size: 59 acres

Year started: 1996?

Type of mitigation: Non-riverine enhancement and preservation.

Description of site and its condition:

This site consisted of 150 acres along the east side of Swift Creek. Emergent and forested wetlands comprise 114 acres and uplands comprise 36 acres. A permanent plug was placed in a ditch that beavers had dammed (to maintain hydrology over the long-term). Otherwise, the site was considered to be mitigation by preservation. The opposite side of the creek was a clear-cut area purchased for mitigation (see Lake Wheeler site).

The vine *Mikania scandens* was abundant throughout the Phillips site. *Acer rubrum* was colonizing much of the emergent area (dominated by *Cyperus* sp., *Polygonum* spp., and *Juncus* sp.) and may eventually convert the emergent area to hardwood swamp.